CLAIM CONSTRUCTION PAGE

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124. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a recombinant adenoviral vector~~, in a prokaryotic cell, a recombinant adenoviral vector of at least 20 kb into the genome of which an exogenous DNA sequence is inserted, by intermolecular recombination~~ comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing into ~~said~~ a prokaryotic cell:

(i) a first DNA fragment comprising ~~all or part of said~~ an adenoviral genome, and

(ii) a second DNA fragment comprising said exogenous DNA sequence surrounded by flanking sequences A and B which are homologous to (i), and

(b) culturing the prokaryotic cell obtained in (a) under suitable culture conditions to allow intermolecular homologous recombination and insertion of the exogenous DNA into the first DNA fragment to occur, and recovering the resulting recombinant adenoviral vector;

wherein the recombinant adenoviral vector comprises the encapsidation region and the 3' and 5' ITRs.

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2 ~~25~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~24~~ 1, characterized in that the adenovirus is an adenovirus of human, canine, avian, bovine, murine, ovine, porcine or simian origin.

3 ~~26~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~24~~ 1, characterized in that the adenovirus is a hybrid adenovirus.

4 ~~27~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 2 characterized in that the parent virus is a type CAV-2 adenovirus of canine origin.

5 ~~28~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 2, characterized in that the parent virus is a serotype C adenovirus of human origin.

6 ~~29~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~25~~ 2, characterized in that the parent virus is a type 5 adenovirus of human origin.

7 ~~30~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~24~~ 1, characterized in that said exogenous DNA sequence codes for a polypeptide of therapeutic interest selected from the group consisting of coagulation factors, growth hormones, cytokines, lymphokines, tumour-suppressing polypeptides, cell receptors, ligands for cell receptors, protease

inhibitors, antibodies, toxins, immunotoxins, dystrophin and polypeptides participating in cellular ion channels.

C2 cont'd

8 31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30, wherein said polypeptide participating in cellular ion channels is a CFTR protein.

9 32. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the homologous flanking sequences A and B are from 10 consecutive bp to 10 consecutive kb in length.

10 33. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 24, characterized in that the first DNA fragment is linearized in the insertion region of the exogenous sequence.

11 34. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 24, for the preparation of a recombinant viral vector which is defective for replication.

12 35. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 34, for the preparation of a recombinant adenoviral vector lacking all or part of at least one region essential for replication, selected from the E1, E2 and E4 regions.

13 ~~36~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~35~~ 12, characterized in that the recombinant adenoviral vector lacks, in addition, all pr art of the E3 region.

C2 contd

14 ~~37~~. (Previously Added) The method according to claim ~~24~~ 1, characterized in that said prokaryotic cell is a recBC strain of *Escherichia coli*.

15 ~~38~~. (Previously Added) A method according to claim ~~24~~ 1, for the preparation of a recombinant viral vector of at least 30 kb.

16 ~~39~~. (Previously Added) A method for preparing an infectious viral particle containing a recombinant viral vector obtained by carrying out a method according to claim 1 ~~24~~, according to which:

(a) said recombinant viral vector is introduced into a mammalian cell to generate a transfected mammalian cell,

(b) said transfected mammalian cell is cultured under suitable conditions to permit the production of said viral particle, and

(c) said viral particle is recovered from the cell culture obtained in step (b).

17 ~~40~~. (New) The method according to claim ~~24~~ 1, characterized in that said prokaryotic cell is the BJ5183 strain of Escherichia coli.